



### **Brenda Malher receives Hurty Service Award**

The genesis of public health throughout Indiana lies in the efforts of John Hurty, M.D., the original Hoosier Health Officer. Dr. Hurty, who served seven consecutive terms as secretary of the State Board of Health, is considered to be one of the most outstanding health officers ever to have served in this or in any other state. It was more than a hundred years ago that Dr. Hurty began his career as a tenacious fighter for sanitation standards, clean water, pure food and drugs, and disease prevention.

In 1873, John Newell Hurty went to work for Col. Eli Lilly in his newly established Eli Lilly and Company Pharmaceuticals in Indianapolis as his chief chemist. Then in 1879, Hurty opened his own drug store at the corner of Ohio and Pennsylvania streets. In the basement of that establishment, he set up one of the first analytical laboratories in the state. Among the variety of things he tested for purity was water for the Indianapolis Water Company.

In 1884, Dr. Hurty established, and for a time taught at, the School of Pharmacy at Purdue University. In 1891, Hurty earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Indiana.

In 1899, Dr. Hurty wrote a bill that became the first comprehensive food and drug legislation to be enacted in the United States. It was not only used as a model by other states, but the Federal Law of 1906 is taken almost word for word from Dr. Hurty's bill.

In 1922, after serving 26 years as the head of the Indiana State Board of Health, Dr. Hurty resigned and was elected to the Indiana General Assembly. His major goal was passage of legislation to strengthen the State Board of Health. John Hurty died in March of 1925.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, in tribute to this great pioneer of safe drinking water in Indiana, recognizes certain individuals who have shown dedication in the water works industry in the State of Indiana.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that The City of Lafayette Utility Billing Office has its first ever recipient. Brenda Malher began her career with us on October 10, 1983, and now serves a distinguished career as the Coordinator of Customer Service for the Utility Billing Office.